

## 5. Rapidly Increasing Poverty by Corona Outbreak

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Many people in India have fallen victim to the Coronavirus so far, and about three million people have lost their lives. A country whose 27 crore population already lives below the poverty line. This kind of epidemic is even more frightening when it costs Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000 for the last rites, two km of the ambulance are asking for 10,000 rupees; private hospital bills are in lakhs, government hospital is in disarray, for oxygen and injection people are paying several hundred times more than the fixed price, where the severity of the situation can be easily understood. Poverty is spreading rapidly in the middle and lower classes due to the threat of unemployment and low wages due to the closure of the trade industry. People are getting treatment by selling jewelry, land, home etc.

We are ranked 145 out of 180 countries in health quality and availability rankings. In medical services, the situation in India is worse than in Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh. This time the economic survey has accepted that Indians have the most pockets in treatment because government investment in the health sector is very low. Four percent of the country's population loses a quarter of its income due to the doctor-hospital. On the other hand, 17% of the public spend more than 10% of their total spending capacity on medical treatment; this is the highest in the world. If 65% of the people in India become ill, they bear the expenses themselves.

According to the standards, there should be an average of 46 health workers per ten thousand populations. But we have less than 23 here. Now the corona epidemic has exploded. Far from the regional towns, the AIIMS or higher medical treatment institutions are not hidden from the crowds of such hospitals and the problem of common patients. We cannot prepare the doctors as per the requirement; the other large populations have neither adequate awareness of health nor have any insurance or economic arrangements for casual medicine. In the last session, the government said that there are 8.18 million doctors in the country. If the population is assumed to be 1.33 billion, then on average, the figure of one doctor per thousand people seems too far away. According to the Public Health Foundation of India, the expenditure on health by 5.30 crore people in the country in 2017 has



exceeded the OOP i.e., out-of-pocket or out-of-pocket spending. Thus, 60% or 3.8 crore people have come down to the BPL or below the poverty line due to hospital expenses.

'Heart and Brain' attacks are at the forefront of the diseases that are most heavily on people's lives and pockets. Out of 53, 74,824 deaths recorded in 2015, 32.8% were due to such conditions. There is an estimate that the number of people with hypertension in India will increase to 21.3 crores by 2025. According to the India Council of Medical Research, there is a possibility that this growth will take place in rural areas. Every year in India, around 17000 people are dying due to high blood pressure. The disease is caused by a deteriorating lifestyle, reduced physical activity, and the amount of salt in the diet. The worry of high blood pressure and its expenditure makes a person also a person living with diabetes and hyperthyroid. A rural society choked by poverty, equality, and economic burden is getting hit and robbed of new diseases like high blood pressure. Once you start the medicines, their quantity keeps increasing. The hallmark of health care is the government's most premium health plan, CEHS i.e. Central Employee Health Service, under which journalists, former M.P.s etc come.

Amid a dilapidated health structure, the corona has taken its passage to the zonal village of India for 15 months. There is a famine of medicine and basic facilities. People in compulsion depend on private hospitals for oxygen and ventilator beds. Where incidental charges are being made for bedsheet, cushion Rs. 2500 per day, Rs. 2000 for medicine and food. The priority of us is to be the health of our family members and hope that they are getting entangled in the morass of poverty.

The enemies of humanity, who seek opportunity in this era of the epidemic, should be given the harshest punishment for the life-saving drugs and black marketing of life-long oxygen. In the global, national disaster, instead of showing condolences, such horrific crime should be classified as a federal crime. According to the Food and Agriculture Association, the Food Price Index internationally is seven years high. The price of edible oil doubled compared to last year, and sugar prices have increased by sixty percent. The retail price of petrol in India has reached around a hundred rupees per liter, making traffic and manure more expensive.

There was excitement in the environment from October last year and the economy was expected to improve. There was such a sharp decline in cases of Corona infection in the official count that a victory over the epidemic was also announced in late January this year. Talking about India's success in the war against the virus on Jan. 28, at an event of the World Economic Forum, our Prime Minister



said that 18 percent of the world's population has effectively managed to save humanity from devastation by overcoming the corona. Unfortunately, it proved to be ephemeral and the second wave of epidemic hit India aggressively. The number of daily cases increased by almost forty percent. The number of deaths increased due to lack of oxygen, ICU beds, ventilators, medicine and emergency facilities.

On the other hand, some people make opportunities in disaster and have made their own income. The situation became such that the space in the crematorium and cemetery was reduced and from there also new ways of earning were started. Accordingly to local reports, these corpses can be in thousands, and the shameless can earn a million. The reason for doing this with corpses in that poor people cannot buy expensive wood for the pyre.

Unemployment, along with inflation, is a worrying sign. According to data from CMIE, the unemployment rate reached eight percent in April. The labor force participation rate came down to only forty percent. That is, sixty percent of the able workforce between the ages of 16 and 60 is out. These people have either lost hope with employment or are at home or in a teaching or training institute. It is well known that the epidemic has forced many women to withdraw from the labour force. Globally, the participation of women in the workforce is the lowest in India. In this dismal state of unemployment and inflation, the government should take the initiative with the Public Distribution System; finance should be made available as an initiative to provide more food grains to the households, vaccination, more allocation in rural employment, further development of sanctioned infrastructure projects and more and more recruitment in government and government undertakings.